

# H.A.C.

General Rules

2026



**HOWLAND ATHLETIC CLUB  
GENERAL RULES  
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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this organization is to help contribute to the emotional and physical maturity of the youth in our community within an athletic environment. It will offer the facilities, equipment and coaching guidance needed to assist in their development. The opportunity to learn and develop skills, have fun and be part of a team.

### I. ORGANIZATION

#### A. LEAGUES

1.) The Howland Athletic Club will provide the following group of leagues for eligible players from 5 through 18 years of age:

- A. Baseball
- B. Softball
- C. Soccer
- D. Competitive Baseball
- E. Competitive Soccer

2.) Competitive Leagues

- A. The competitive leagues are for those individuals looking to play in leagues with a competitive nature against teams from other communities.
- B. The number of teams will be determined by enrollment and availability of coaches as decided on by the respective League Director, League Commissioner and President.
- C. Evaluations may be held if the respective League Director, Commissioner and President deem necessary.
- D. Players must be enrolled in the corresponding HAC Recreational League for that season, unless they are already playing for another club/traveling program. U12 and U15 Competitive Soccer players do not need play for the respective Rec program.
- E. Participation in the HAC Competitive Leagues **DOES NOT** guarantee that a player will be selected onto a Post Season All Star Team.

#### B. TEAMS

- 1.) The number of player for each team in a League can be found in each League's Playing Rules
- 2.) All leagues will be redrafted every year regardless of the number of players increasing or decreasing in any league.
- 3.) It is HAC Policy that team drinks/snacks at the end of the games need be purchased from the HAC Concession Stand (if it is open) for games that are played on the fields at Ridgelawn. If you know the concession stand will be closed for your game or your game is being played at other locations

you are permitted to bring your own snacks and drinks.

### **C. PLAYERS**

- 1.) Only children residing in the Howland Little League Boundaries are eligible to participate in the HAC baseball program.  
*Exceptions:* 1) Entire teams from outside the District with the approval of Trustees, or 2) Individuals on a case-by-case basis, with the approval of the League Director and Commissioner.
- 2.) No late player sign-ups will be accepted after the last day of registration. Anyone wishing to sign up after this date should register online to be placed on a waiting list. The waiting list will be used to fill the maximum team size, or to add another team if enough kids are on the waitlist. Additional teams cannot be added after drafts/team selections.
- 3.) Except for the Colt Baseball division, no HAC baseball participant may play for any non-HAC team, non-HAC league or in a non-HAC approved tournament during the same season without prior approval of the HAC President and League Commissioner. Any players violating this rule will forfeit their HAC eligibility for that season. A season is defined as starting on Opening Day and ending on the last date of the last in-house tournament or last regular season games if there are no tournaments. Each parent must sign a statement of accountability for the health and well-being of their child.

### **D. MANAGERS/COACHES and ASSISTANT MANAGERS/COACHES**

The HAC acknowledges and thanks the managers/coaches for their participation in the organization. Without their help and continued cooperation, the club could not function and would dissolve. The responsibility of the manager/coach goes beyond the playing field. Managers/coaches need to be involved in field work, fundraisers, umpiring/refing, and the general well-being of the player.

Managers/coaches should remember that their most important job is not winning; but rather providing a positive experience for Howland youth. It is the responsibility of the manager and their assistants to reflect the proper image in the community during the involvement with the HAC program. Neither the community, nor the HAC, can or will tolerate any person entrusted with the responsibility of our children, of anything but impeccable behavior on and off the field.

Managers/coaches and assistants are responsible for the knowing and abiding by all the rules and regulations covered in this handbook as well as their league rules. Failure to abide by these rules could result in a managers'/coaches' suspension. Violations of the policy will be addressed by the Manager/Coach Selection Committee.

- 1.) All managers/coaches will be appointed on the basis of applicants that volunteer on-line during the

registration process by the Manager/Coach Selection Committee (League Director, Commissioner, and President). The proposed list must be voted on by the body of Trustees at a regularly scheduled HAC Trustee Meeting. A list of alternate candidates must be available at this meeting for each league. All proposed managers with players on the team must have their child registered prior to coaches' selection meeting.

- 2.) Assistant Managers/Coaches will be appointed by the Managers/Coaches after the Draft/Team Selection. Assistant Managers/Coaches will be approved in the April Meeting for Baseball/Softball and in the July/August Meeting for Soccer. Once the assistants are approved they will be submitted for background checks.
- 3.) No one under the age of 21 can manage/coach a team.
- 4.) Anyone under the age of 18 who wants to be an assistant needs to be approved by the League Director, League Commissioner and the HAC President.
- 5.) It is the responsibility of the Team Managers/Coaches and their assistants to reflect a proper image in the community during their involvement with the HAC program. Managers and Coaches are entrusted with the responsibility of teaching children. Nothing less than impeccable conduct will be tolerated by the community and the HAC.
- 6.) It is the responsibility of the Manager/Coach to explain the Rules of the HAC to the parents of his team.
- 7.) It is HAC policy that team snacks, at the end of all games played at the fields on Ridgelawn, will be purchased at the concession stand. All managers/coaches are required to enforce this policy and to explain this policy to all players' parents and guardians.
- 8.) Documents relating to the playing time of each player should be maintained throughout the season. Managers/Coaches failing to abide by the Leagues minimum playing time requirements for players will be subject to suspension.
- 9.) Home Team keeps the Official score book for baseball and softball.
- 10.) All baseball and softball teams are required to participate in The Opening Day Parade.
- 11.) The Manager/Coach is responsible for having his team clean up the dugout/sidelines and surrounding area after every game.
- 12.) It is against HAC policy for any Manager/Coach to abandon players whose parents have not picked them up after a practice, a game, or any other team function.
- 13.) Managers/Coaches, players and parents are not permitted to prepare fields without the expressed permission of the Field Director or HAC League Director.
- 14.) Managers are responsible for all equipment issued to their teams and are expected to return it promptly at the conclusion of the season. Managers/Coaches failing to return equipment as scheduled may have their names removed from consideration for future teams.

- 15.) Managers/Coaches, who feel they should discipline players by not playing them, should do so **ONLY** with the approval of the League Director and League Commissioner.
- 16.) All managers/coaches are required to have in their possession, an Emergency Medical Form for each player at all practices and games.
- 17.) Managers failing to abide by HAC rules will be subject to suspension from one to more games. Serious violation may result in the loss of a team.
- 18.) All uniforms must be issued to the players. No uniform will be issued to no-pays, except for hardships. Hardships are determined by the Commissioner and the HAC Executive Committee members or the President.
- 19.) All teams are required to participate in Team Pictures.
- 20.) All managers/coaches shall direct their parents in regards to the team drink rule. Failure to abide by this rule will be noted to the Manager's Selection Committee the following year.
- 21.) No speaker phones or electronic recording devices are allowed to be used at any HAC meetings. This includes all player evaluations, player drafts, manager meetings, and All-Star selection meetings.
- 22.) There will be a list of approved coaches available at the fields. If you not on the list, you cannot step on the fields/ dugouts or assist with the teams. If you want to be able to help you must go thru the little league background checks to be added to our coaching list.

## **E. LEAGUE DIRECTORS**

- 1.) The director will enforce all rules and regulations applicable to his/her league, as adopted by the HAC.
- 2.) The director will conduct a mandatory meeting with all managers/coaches to distribute and explain the HAC rules prior to evaluations.
- 3.) The director makes sure that the fields are in proper playing condition and that umpires/refs are present.
- 4.) The director and/or commissioner shall notify managers/coaches of game cancellations as soon as determination is made.
- 5.) The director will provide teams with pre-season practice schedule. This may include scrimmage games.
- 6.) Rainouts may be rescheduled to the next available time slot for rainouts and in the same order of the rain- out if the schedule format provides for rain make-ups.

- 7.) No regularly scheduled games can be changed for a rain out.
- 8.) The director shall not adopt or change any rules contrary to these rules and regulations.
- 9.) The director shall be responsible for overseeing that all managers/coaches abide by the HAC policy pertain to purchasing of team snacks on games played at the fields on Chalfont.

## **F. LEAGUE COMMITTEES**

- 1.) The HAC Policy Committee will consist of the President, Commissioner and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.
- 2.) The HAC Manager/Coach Selection Committee will consist of the President, League Director and League Commissioner.
- 3.) The HAC Tournament Manager/Coach Selection Committee will consist of the President, League Commissioner and the League Director.

## **II. BAD WEATHER**

### **A. GAME CANCELLATIONS & SUSPENDED GAMES**

- 1.) Cancellation prior to start of game due to weather or field condition will be decided by the Commissioner & League Directors in consultation with the HAC President or Senior Officer present.
- 2.) After the game starts, **ONLY** the Umpire/Referee, acting upon concurrence of the League Director or other HAC officer can suspend a game.

### **B. DANGEROUS WEATHER RULES**

*The safety of our players, parents, coaches and spectators is of utmost importance to The Howland Athletic Club. Lightning is one of our greatest concerns on the field, and we want everyone involved with HAC to understand the dangers of lightning so that they will take the appropriate action when thunderstorms threaten. In connection therewith, the HAC is adopting the following lightning policy, which is to be strictly enforced, and is, mandatory.*

*In the event of any of the following:*

*(a) the sight of lightning*

*(b) lightning detected within a 10 mile radius of the field by WeatherBug Spark (free download available from <http://weather.weatherbug.com/spark-alert.html>)*

**Should the Howland Township Emergency Siren sound fields should be evacuated as calmly and proficiently as possible.** (Please be aware at noon on the first Saturday of every month they do testing

of the siren.)

1.) Practice Rules (Dangerous Weather)

- A.** The coach in charge of practice shall immediately suspend or cancel practice, players and coaches shall retreat to automobiles or a secure structure with four walls and a roof.
- B.** No players will be permitted to remain on the field or in open dugouts for any reason. **C.** Coaches are urged to monitor weather conditions and to use their best judgment regarding adverse weather. A coach may postpone or cancel practice at any time that he or she believes that it is unsafe to continue for any weather related reason.
- D.** A practice may resume following suspension, at the discretion of the coach, if no thunder is heard or lightning is observed for a period of 30 minutes and is not detected by Spark within a 10 mile radius.
- E.** Coaches are responsible for providing shelter to any members of the team who do not have a parent or other adult present at the field.
- F.** Coaches should advise parents of this severe weather policy and should obtain contact information so that the coach can contact parents who leave their children at practice in the event of a suspension or cancellation.

2) Game Rules (Dangerous Weather)

- A.** The following shall be the Policy of the HAC for all games, baseball, softball or soccer played on HAC Fields.
- B.** The head official shall immediately suspend or cancel the game and players and coaches shall retreat to automobiles or a secure structure with four walls.
- C.** No players will be permitted to remain on the field or in open dugouts, for any reason. **D.** The head official shall have the discretion to suspend or postpone play at any time that he or she believes that it is unsafe to continue for any weather related reason.
- E.** A game may resume following suspension, at the discretion of the head official, if no thunder is heard or lightning is observed for a period of 30 minutes, and not detected by Spark within a 10 mile radius